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IRISH COLONISTS IN NEW YORK

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JAMES DUANE,

First Mayor of the City of New York after the Revolution. Son of Anthony Duane, of Cong, County Galway. Born, 1733. Died, 1797.

IRISH COLONISTS IN NEW YORK



1. THE IRISH ELEMENT IGNORED — PIONEERS OF ALBANY COUNTY.



Students of the Colonial records will not have to travel far before they find justification for the statement of Ramsay, the historian of North Carolina, when he wrote in 1789 that:

"The Colonies which now form the United States may be considered as Europe transplanted. Ireland, England, Scotland, France, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, Poland and Italy furnished the original stock of the present population, and are generally supposed to have contributed to it in the order named. For the last seventy or eighty years no nation has contributed nearly so much to the population of America as Ireland."

While it is generally conceded that Irish immigrants played an important role in the upbuilding of the American Republic, there has been, somehow, a notable paucity of recognition of their splendid services on the part of the historians. Whatever honors they received were given grudgingly, many writers giving merely a passing reference to their unselfish patriotism, and, when others covered themselves with vicarious glory, it pleased the average writer of history to let the Irishman remain in partial oblivion.

But the tide has turned. When this scholarly body has tendered to me the invitation to speak on the subject of "Irishmen in the Colony of New York." I feel as though the men of my race have at last received the recognition denied them by the early historians. The development was tardy, but is none the less appreciative.

Although it does not appear that Irish immigrants settled in the Province of New York as early as in other sections of the country yet, as far back as the middle of the seventeenth century, we find Irish names mentioned frequently in the records of this colony. The great exodus from Ireland during the Cromwellian period steered its course either in the direction of New England or the Plantations of the Carolinas and Virginia, rather than to New York. Philadelphia was at that time the great port of entry. New York had not then attained the

pre-eminence it now enjoys, though the Irish exodus has considerably diminished, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Douglas Hyde and the Gaelic League.

In the pages of early American history are many interesting sidelights relating to the standing of Irishmen, not alone in the centres of colonial life and activity along the Atlantic Coast, but out along the borders of the forest, in the wild and uncultivated tracts of country where their implacable enemy was the ruthless redskin.

Everywhere do we come across them in the early records. In the cities, merchants, professional men and gentlemen of fortune; in the open country, farmers, laborers, artisans, Indian traders and schoolmasters, all engaged in the same work, advance agents in the march of civilization. Only a few, comparatively, are mentioned in official records. These were the men who, by their indomitable pluck and energy, demolished the barriers of prejudice and bigotry, and rose above the mass prosperous and triumphant to take the place to which they were entitled in the affairs of the day. It would add considerably to the sum of human knowledge if we could trace the careers of these humble but patriotic citizens, but we shall be debarred from its enjoyment until some qualified historian shall arise who will undertake the task.

To present a really comprehensive account of the great transatlantic migration which set out from Ireland during the Cromwellian period would need the substance of many volumes. In the space allotted to me, therefore, I shall simply skim over the surface, and by the aid of qualified authorities endeavor to indicate the proportion of this Irish immigration which settled in the Province of New York, the character of the prominent settlers written down in the early records and the localities which principally profited by the settlements which they founded.

The first mention of an Irishman in the colony of New York is that of a sailor named Coleman, who was killed by Indians

in 1609 at Sandy Hook. O'Callaghan in his "Documentary History of New York," states that this place "was formerly called Coleman's Point in commemoration of the Irish sailor." In the same historical work are found men named Gill, Barrett and Ferris, "settlers and Indian fighters in New Netherland in 1657," and, in 1673, Patrick Dowdall, John Fitzgerald, Benjamin Cooley, Thomas Bassett, L. Collins and Thomas "Guinn" (Quinn) were enrolled in the militia. In 1674 John Cooley was a witness on the trial of a Captain Manning in New York.

In O'Callaghan's "Register of New Netherland" we find in a list of physicians in New York City in 1647 the name of Dr. William Hayes, formerly of Barry's Court, Ireland. A Dr. Hughes was also a surgeon in New Netherland in 1657, Richard Gibbons and John Morris are mentioned as magistrates at Gravesend in 1651 and 1653; John Cochranse as overseer in 1663, and John Moore in 1652.

Captain Christopher Goffe, of the ship *Catherine*, was made prisoner in New York in 1690 for speaking seditiously of the English Governor.

According to Brodhead, Captain Daniel Patrick was the first white settler in Greenwich, Conn. He had come from Boston with forty men to assist the Connecticut troops in the war with the Pequot Indians. In 1639 he and one Robert Feake established a settlement on what is now Greenwich, which was then portion of the Colony of New York. Governor Peter Stuyvesant granted him town rights in that year. His name is said to have been originally Gilpatrick, which is an Anglicized form of the old Irish clan name, Mac Giolla Patrick.

In the "Census of the City of New York of the Year 1703," appear such names as Mooney, Dooley, Walsh, Carroll, Daudy (Daly?), Corbett, Coleman, Curre, Kenne, Gillen, Collum, (McCollum), Morrayn, Munnill, Gurney, Mogan (McGann), Buckley, Jordan, Hardin, Waters, a Dr. Defany and many others common to Irish nomenclature. Thirty years after that date are found, in addition to those mentioned, such names as McLennon, Lynch, Raftry, Sutton, Hanlon, Quale, Ray, Darcy, "Dwire," Blake and Devoe, as well as Clarkes, Whites and Brownes, whose Christian names clearly indicate their Irish origin. These names were among others signed to a petition to the Governor, dated September 23, 1737, demanding the removal of the Sheriff of New York.

In the muster rolls of the militia of the City of New York in the year 1737, are

enumerated such Irish names as Welsh, McDowell, Ryan, Baldwin, Mooney, Hayes, Dorlon, Manning, "Murfey," Lowry, Magee, Killey, Gill, Sutton, Farley, Sullivan, McMullen, Ray, Hanley, O'Brien, Cansaly and Morgan. There are also Smiths and Browns and such like names, some of whom bore Irish Christian names.

Andrew Meade, a native of Kerry, settled early in New York, but subsequently removed to Virginia, where he died in 1745. He was the father of Colonel Richard K. Meade, an aid-de-camp of Washington, and was the grandfather of Bishop William Meade, of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Virginia.

One would scarcely expect to find an Irishman in the old Dutch settlement of Beverwyck as early as the year 1645. The first Dutchmen were very jealous of their profitable trade relations with the Indians. They were a very exclusive set, who drew entirely within themselves when a stranger ventured within their gates. One Irishman, however, seems to have burrowed his way into their affections. His name was John Anderson from Dublin, and it is curious to find that every mention of this old pioneer in the early records is accompanied by the description "the Irishman." He is mentioned in the old Dutch records as "Jan Andriessen de lersman van Dublingh," and as an instance of his popularity among his neighbors he is affectionately referred to as "Jantie" or "Jantien," meaning "Johnnie" or "little Johnnie." He bought considerable land at Albany and Catskill. He died at Albany in 1664.

John Connell was a soldier in Albany in 1666. He married and bought property there, and in 1670 is recorded as selling his house to one Stuart. Thomas Powel, an Irishman, was a baker in Albany from 1650 to 1671. Anna Daly married Everardus Bogardus, grandson of the celebrated Anneke Janse Bogardus, on December 4, 1675. James Larkin was in Governor Dongan's employ in 1687 as "keeper of the granary," and in the same year his countryman, William Shaw, was surveyor of customs in Albany, and was later appointed by Dongan sheriff of the county. William Hogan was in Albany in 1692, where he is described as "Willem Hogen van Bor in Yrlant in de Kings County." His name is on a list of jurymen who in 1703 tried his countryman, "Johnnie" Finn, in an action for recovery of rent. This Finn is described in some of the old Dutch records in this wise: "Jan Fyne (also as "Johannes Fine"), cooper, van Waterfort in Irlant." From 1693 to 1743 the names of many of

the descendants of the pioneer, William Hogan, appear in the baptismal records of the Dutch Reformed Church, although the name is spelled "Hoogen," "Hoggen," and "Hoghing.". Robert Barrett was in 1699 appointed a night watchman for the city, and in the following year Edward Corbett and Robert Barrett received licenses as city carters. In 1701, Nicholas Blake was elected a city constable. Lieutenant John Collins was a lawyer in Albany in 1703, and his son was Mayor in 1733, and recorder of the city in 1746. Patrick Martin married Mary Cox at Albany on March 15, 1707.

In a list of Freeholders of the City of Albany in 1720 the names of William Hogan, Daniel Kelley and John Collins appear, and seven years later the list contains the names of William Hogan, Jr., Edward Collins, Michael Bassett, and John Hogan. In 1755, Philip Mullen was fire master of the city, and Philip Ryley had the important post of winder of the town clock. John McDuffie was sheriff of the county and superintendent of State prisons in 1765. Mrs. Grant, in her *Memoirs of an American Lady*, mentions "a handsome, good-natured looking Irishman in a ragged Provincial uniform," named Patrick Coonie, who, with his wife and children, settled near Albany in 1768. The name of McCarthy is met with very frequently in these old records. Patrick, John and Dennis McCarthy were among the earliest of the family, having been in Albany between 1736 and 1748.

David McCarthy, a native of Cork, mentioned as very active in Albany's Committee of Safety, was a Revolutionary soldier, and at the time of his death was a General of militia. On May 6, 1771, he married a granddaughter of Peter Coeymans, the founder of an old Dutch family, and thereby became possessed of much land in the Coeyman's Patent. He is said to have been a man of ability and influence and respected by the entire community. He was a member of the State Legislature in 1792, and in 1804 became county judge. His son, John B. McCarthy was State Senator in 1826, and later, like his father, county judge.

Other McCarthy's also settled in Albany County, two of whom, daughters of Captain John McCarthy, of New London, married into the celebrated Van Rensselaer family. Hugh Mitchel was one of the "Commissioners of Conspiracies" formed in Albany during the Revolution. Hugh Dennison was a prominent resident of Albany, where he is referred to as "a true Irishman." For many years he conducted the only first-class hotel there, which became a place of meeting for the liberty-loving citizens of Albany.

Washington was a guest of his hotel in 1782 and 1783, and was there presented with the freedom of the city.

In Pearson's "Genealogies of the First Settlers of the Ancient County of Albany from 1630 to 1800," are mentioned the names of numerous Irish settlers. Many of them were residents of the county long before the opening of the eighteenth century, and the manner in which the names of some of these Irish settlers are given in this nomenclature is a curious revelation into the way their original Celtic names became changed. For instance, we find "Swillivaun" for Sullivan, Patrick "Weith" for Patrick White, "Mec-kans" for McCann, "Mourisse" for Morrissey, "Coneel" for O'Connell, "Reyley" for Reilly, and so on. In the mutations of time, even these incongruities in names became still further changed, so that their descendants of the present day cannot be recognized at all as of Irish ancestry, and they themselves probably think they are of English or Dutch descent. The most pronounced Irish names enumerated in this book are Ahearn, Byrne, Butler, Burke, Bryan, Barrett, Costigan, Connell, Collins, "Coneel," Conklin, Collier, Cassiday, Curtin, Cooney, Cunningham, Cummings, Courtney, Cadogan, Cochrane, Connick, Connolly, Conneway, Dempsey, Daily, Dillon, Downing, "Dunnevan," "Dunnoway," Donovan, Donagoe, Ennis, Flynn, Fallon, Farrell, Fletcher, Fleming, "Glispy," "Glaspy," and Gillespie, Garigan, Gilliland, Griffin, Haines, Hogan, Heggerty, Humphrey, Holland, Harrington, Kelley, Keating, Kane, Kennedy, Logan, Lynch, Murphy, Morrow, Morris, Moore, Milligan, Mitchel, McManus, McGinnis, McNeal, McCleary, McGuire, McCoy, McEntee, McCann, McVey, McMenny, McGahary, McMullen, McKee, McCue, McFarland, McBride, McCann, McCloskey, McCarthy, McClure, McCay, McDonald, McKinney, McCullough, McGuiness, McClellan, Maloney, Mahoney, Magee, Mooney, Molloy, Murray, "Mourisse," Manley, O'Brien, O'Conor and Connor, Norton, Nevin, Power, Quinn, Reilly, Ryan, Reynolds, "Swilliavaun" and Sullivan, Tracy, Waters and Welsh. Besides these were Patrick Clarke, Patrick Kellinin, Patrick "Flat," Patrick White and Patrick Constable. Many of them were men of family.

These were merchants, farmers, miners, millers and backwoodsmen; the pioneers who, with their Dutch neighbors, blazed the trail of civilization through that section, rolled back the savage red man, and who marked along the banks of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers the sites of future towns and cities.



Governor of New York, 1683-1688. Born in Limerick, 1634. Died in London, 1715.

II.—DONGAN, THE IRISH GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK.

Early Settlers in Long Island and in Columbia, Westchester, Orange and Ulster Counties.

It is hardly necessary to remind this gathering that such distinguished men as Governor Thomas Dongan and Sir Wm. Johnson were natives of the Emerald Isle, except to say that their careers were such that any American of Irish blood can point to them with pride. It was during the administration of Dongan, and under his direction that the charter decreeing that no taxes should be imposed except by act of the Assembly was adopted by the Provincial Legislature. This was a most radical change from the truly English method previously in vogue. His most prominent characteristic was his tolerance toward all forms of religion. He believed that one religious denomination had as good a right as another to the free enjoyment of its creed and worship, and his whole career indicates that he put that theory into practical execution. In 1687 he promulgated the "Declaration of Indulgence," which authorized public worship by any sect, and abolished all religious qualifications for office.

As to Johnson I will only say that he has been described by many unthinking writers as an "Englishman," or else that he was an Irishman merely "by accident of birth." I maintain, however, that there is no historical justification for either description. There are English Johnsons and Irish Johnsons. The latter are of the purest native Celtic stock, and even to-day there are families of Johnsons in Ireland who are called "Mac Shane" by their neighbors almost as frequently as they are called "Johnson." By a law passed in the second year of the reign of Edward IV. of England all Irishmen who resided within what was called the "Pale," that is, within the military jurisdiction of England as it then existed, were obliged to discard their old Irish clan names and adopt in their stead English Surnames, under pain of the forfeiture of their possessions. When taking on their new names some of the Irish families adopted their English synonyms. The Mac Shanes were a celebrated fighting clan who took part in the wars between the O'Neills and O'Donnells of Ulster and the English invader. Some of them are known to have settled within the Pale. Sir William Johnson was born in the County of Meath, which was within this charmed English circle. In the Gaelic language "Mac" means "the son of," and

"Shane" means "John," so that, when the MacShanes were forced to change their names, they naturally took that which bore in English the closest resemblance to their own, namely "Johnson."

A person uninformed of the unfortunate history of Ireland, therefore, but more especially one without some knowledge of the old Gaelic names, will find considerable difficulty in recognizing the descendants of some of the early Irish emigrants as being of Irish blood.

Dongan's estates were divided among his nephews, John, Thomas, and Walter Dongan. Walter's son, Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Dongan, of the 3d Battalion of New Jersey Volunteers was killed in an attack on the British forts on Staten Island in August 1777. John C. Dongan, one of the descendants of the Governor represented Richmond County in the New York Assembly from 1786 to 1789. Among the Irish who settled early in Staten Island were Richard Connor, who arrived from Ireland in 1760, in which year he purchased a landed estate there. He is referred to in Clute's History of the Island as "a man of respectable acquirements and superior business qualifications, who filled all the responsible positions on the Island." His son, Richard, was a prominent surveyor and held various offices of trust. He was a member of the First and Third Provincial Congress. Jeremiah Connor is mentioned as in Staten Island in 1761.

Among the members of the Colonial Assembly from Richmond County who bore Irish names were Thomas Morgan, Henry Holland, John Dongan, John C. Dongan and John Dunn.

Father Henry Harrison, an Irish Jesuit priest, was in New York in 1683, having been brought over by Governor Dongan, "to treat with the Caughnawaga Indians."

Father Harrison went back to Ireland in 1690, but returned seven years later, this time to Maryland, where he died in 1701. Another Irish missionary who labored among the Indians in New York about eighty years later was Revd. Mr. Kenny.

In a report to the Lord President, dated September 8, 1687, Governor Dongan recommends "that natives of Ireland be sent here to colonize where they may live and be very

happy." Numbers of them must have accepted the invitation, for we find many Irishmen mentioned in the public documents of the Province during the succeeding years.

In another of his reports to the "Committee of Trade of the Province of New York," dated February 22, 1687, he states that very few English, Scotch or Irish families had come over to the Province during the preceding seven years, but that "on the contrary, on Long Island they increase so fast that they complain for want of land, and many remove from thence into the neighboring Province." As to the Irish on Long Island, the official lists of the inhabitants would indicate that there were large numbers of them. In the rate lists of the year 1675 of Long Island townships, appear such names as Kelly, Dalton, Whelan, Hand, Hare, Fithian, Condon, Barry and Shaw, in Easthampton; in Huntington, Powers, Bryan, Goulden, Quinn, Canye, Kane and White; in Southold, Moore, Conklin, Lyman, Coleman, Martin, Lee, White, Bradley, Griffin, Terrell, Giles, Moore, Veale and Clarke; in Flushing, Harrington, Ford, Griffin, Ward, Daniell, Clery, Patrick, Holdren and Holdrone. Edward Hart was Town Clerk of Flushing in 1638. In Brookhaven, Ward, Clarke, Norton, Davis, Sweeney, Murphy, Lane and Rogers; in Gravesend, Boyce and Goulding; in Jamaica, Creed, Ford and Freeman; in Hempstead, Sutton, Ireland, Daniell, Lee and Reilly; in Oyster Bay, McCorkel, Collins, Butler, Davis and Kirby; in Southampton, Kelly, Kennedy, Mitchel, Hughes, Cochrane, McCown, Butler, Barrett, Moore, Hand, Shaw, Clarke, Norris and Jennings. There were several families of the same name scattered over the island. Many other landowners bearing non-Irish surnames, but Irish Christian names, such as Brighid Clement, Brighid Roberts, Bridget Scudder, Patrick Mott, and the like, I do not include. The names of these doubtless were changed before they left Ireland, under the operation of the English law already referred to.

William Welsh, one of the counsellors of William Penn, negotiated a treaty in 1683 with the Indians of Northwestern New York. He represented the Governor of Pennsylvania in negotiations with Governor Dongan in 1684 relative to a quarrel with Lord Baltimore. Nicholas Cullen signed a complaint of the inhabitants of the City of New York to the English King on June 11, 1687. In a letter from Lieutenant-Governor Leisler, of New York, on March 4, 1689, to the Governor of Maryland, he refers to "the insolent but courageous conduct of the Papists," and how he had

"suspected and apprehended two Irish rebellious traitors, placed them on a bark and sent them to Maryland." In a report to the same Leisler from Captain John Coode, dated April 4, 1690, he speaks of certain prisoners "lately in custody upon suspicion of being Irishmen and papists." Two of the prisoners, named Healy and Walsh, who made their escape to Pennsylvania, seem to have been particularly obnoxious to the virtuous Captain Coode. These letters, in themselves, prove that many Irishmen were residents of the colony of New York at that time, but of the names of many of them and the places where they settled I am yet unable to find any reliable record.

In Munsell's "American Ancestry," James Murphy, who was born in Dublin, is referred to as a settler in Columbia County in 1694. He was the owner of a large tract of land, and is said to have had numerous descendants. One of them, John Murphy, who was born in 1767, served in the war of 1812. Tunis Cochran, who was also born in Ireland, was a later settler in the same county. He fought in the Revolutionary War, and his son, Tunis, upheld the fighting record of the family by serving in the war of 1812. John Scott came from Ireland in 1739, and settled in Spencertown, Columbia County. He married Mary Hughes, an Irishwoman.

Other early Irish settlers in Columbia County were Daniel Downing, in 1749, who commanded a company of New York militia in the Revolutionary War; William Collins, in 1767; Samuel McClellan and Samuel Higgins, in 1783, and Joseph Daley in 1790. James White, who was born in County Down, settled in Chatham in 1765. He was a lieutenant-colonel in the Revolutionary Army, and served under Washington. He was the son of James White, who was for many years a member of the Irish Parliament.

In a petition to the Governor of New York of the residents of Columbia County, dated January 7, 1695, praying for an investigation into Robert Livingston's title to certain tracts of land in that county, I find such names as Connor, Kilmore, McLean, Crian, McDermott, Davis, Whalen, Kilmer, Dennis, McArthur, "Cannay," Allan, Drum, and Murphy McIntyre.

Among the employees of the same Robert Livingston, at the Ancram Iron Works, were McCoy, McArthur, Furlong, Elliott, Angus McDuffey and Timothy O'Connor.

In a map of Columbia County, compiled from actual surveys by John Wigram in January, 1798, I find among the property owners, Collins, Gill, Lynch, Roddy, Patrick,

McCarthy, Moore, Kilmore, McFall, Morris, Meghley, McDermott, Lane, McArthur, McIntyre, Irvine, Carroll, Brian, McClean and Brofey. In order to have acquired property I have no doubt many, if not all, of these were there many years. In an old chuchyard at Kinderhook may be seen such names as O'Dowd and O'Brady, dated 1740 and 1749 respectively. Other early settlers in Columbia County were Powers, Blakes and Buckleys.

Newtown, L. I., is said to be one of the very oldest towns in the Province of New York, its history antedating even that of New Amsterdam. It seems to have been a popular place with Irish settlers in the early days. In 1664, John Cochran was a constable and freeholder of the town of Newtown. About the same period there were several Moores, and families named Hart and Jennings in Newtown. The nationality of these is not given, but the names are so common in Ireland that is is probable they were of that nation.

Hugh O'Neale was a prominent resident of Newtown in 1655, and in that year he married a daughter of Dr. Adrian Van der Donck, of Flushing, who is described in the History of Newtown as a distinguished Doctor of Laws. Van der Donck was one of the early Dutch settlers of that town, and was the first to obtain a patent for the Rappelye estate at Astoria. The Rappelyes were related by marriage to the celebrated Riker family, and to-day the old Rappelye Cemetery at Astoria is one of the most interesting spots to students of old New York. There one can decipher on the old tombstones the names of many of the Rikers and the Rappelyes, and of others who married into these pioneer families long before the Revolution.

It is remarkable to read of the number of Irishmen who married into the Riker family. Captain George Collins, married Elizabeth Riker in 1742. Michael Hines married Gertrude Riker, and a Captain John O'Brian married Jane Riker, one of whose daughters later became the wife of the distinguished American artist, Inman. Thomas Lynch, a Galway man, also married into this family, and the widow of Lynch afterwards became the wife of Anthony Duane, also a Galway man, who was a leading merchant of New York, and the father of James Duane, distinguished as a member of the first Continental Congress and the first Mayor of New York in the infant days of the American Republic.

In later years, another lady of the Riker family was married to Dr. William James MacNevin, one of the leaders of the United

Irishmen, and who is known as the "Father of American Chemistry." MacNevin was buried in the old cemetery at Astoria.

Several families of McDonoughs were in Newtown before 1750, and some of them are mentioned as occupying leading positions in the affairs of that then populous settlement. Terrence Reilly, a New York merchant, lived in Newtown in 1755. There also settled McConnells, Shannons, Devines and Haires. John Kearns taught school at Newtown during the Revolutionary War, and after the war one Thomas McFarran purchased an estate there of an English officer named Grant whose property became forfeited. Daniel Bodle, a native of Armagh, was in Newtown in 1740, but in 1742 he settled at Little Britain in Orange County, where he became a civil magistrate. He married a cousin of Governor Clinton, by whom he had a large family. He was one of the most widely known and respected men in that section of the country and served in the Congress of the United States as a representative from Ulster and Sullivan counties. He lived to a sublime old age.

William Kelly, of New York, was owner of a packet vessel plying between New York and the Island of Barbadoes in 1750. It was to this island that Cromwell exiled thousands of the Irish race in the middle of the seventeenth century, and from where many of their descendants afterward came to the American colonies. A Captain Edward Kelly, commander of a whaling vessel, was also in New York at this time. His family is mentioned in the History of Newtown as residents of that town. Another of the Kelly clan was a lawyer in New York in 1755. Daniel O'Brien is mentioned in the *New York Weekly Gazette Review* as the owner of a ferry plying between New York and Amboy, thence by stage coach to Philadelphia, in the year 1750.

William O'Dell was one of the first settlers in Rye, Westchester County. He located there in 1662, and became a large land holder. William Collins was excise collector of Westchester County in 1680, and Bridget Ferguson was in that county in 1696.

In Baird's History of Rye Gabriel Lynch is mentioned as a settler in 1688. He came from England, which fact prompted another historical writer to designate him an "Englishman." Another, Gabriel Lynch, was one of the Commissioners of Highways in Rye in 1765. Captain John Lynch was one of the petitioners for a patent for the White Plains Purchase in 1721. John Lynch was a land owner in White Plains in 1737. All of these Lynches are said to be of separate families, who settled early in New York.

In Bolton's History of Westchester County several members of the Hayes family, settlers in Rye in 1721, are mentioned. They were mine owners and also owned a large tract of land. Other Irish settlers in Rye, who are mentioned at various times between the years 1710 and 1799, were Kennedys, McCullums, Nealys, Moores, Sextons, Suttons, Hares, Caseys, and Fitzgeralds. Captain John Flood, of Rye, was "voted twenty dollars by the Committee of Safety in 1776 as a reward for his spirited conduct in apprehending William Lounsberry, a notorious enemy of America."

In Eastchester half a century before the Revolution, were families styled "Gee" (McGee), "fitz giarral" (Fitzgerald), Ward and Curry.

In the records of the neighboring towns of Westchester County we meet with the names of several settlers of the same names. They were merchants, farmers and Indian traders. Among the residents of New Rochelle in 1710 were nine Barretts, seven "Moryces," five "Murros," and two Mansions. These "Moryces" were, no doubt originally Morrisseys, and it is entirely within the bounds of probability to say that the "Murros" of New Rochelle were descended from the MacMurroughs of Leinster. We do know from Irish history that the "Murro" and "Morrow" families in Ireland are descended from the MacMurroughs.

In Orange County records of the earliest pioneer days in that county mention is made of Irish settlers. Lossing says "the City of Newburgh was first settled in 1709 by English, Irish, New England and Huguenot families." John Connor, who was born in County Westmeath, in 1741, settled in Orange Co. in 1767. He married one Hannah Dunn. He served as a private in a New York regiment in the Revolutionary War. One of his descendants, Dr. Leartus Connor, of Detroit, was one of the leading medical men of America. A family of Fitzgeralds were prominent land owners in Orange Co. in 1750. In 1729, Charles Clinton, father of a distinguished family of Revolutionary soldiers and statesmen, left County Longford and settled the town of New Windsor, Orange County, with 200 of his fellow-countrymen. He married an Irishwoman. Their daughter married Colonel James McClaughrey, a brave Irish officer of the Revolution. It was the Clinton family that gave New York its first Republican Governor. They were originally of English descent, who fled into Ireland during the régime of Cromwell. In Ireland they became "as Irish as the Irish themselves." In a map of that section of the State along the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers, filed in the Surveyor-

General's Office in 1690, I find the following property owners in the year 1683: Butler, McNeil, Croghan, McKee, Loudon, Byrne, Alloon, Clarke, White, McFarlan, Kennedy, Guerin and Crean. There were several families bearing the same name. In 1720, there were, in addition to these, land owners named Hogan, Kelly, Collins, Lewis, Holland and Feeley.

As early as 1676, there were Irishmen in Ulster County, and in a petition sent by the inhabitants of Esopus in that county to the Provincial Governor in that year, praying to have a clergyman sent to them, were such signatories as Quirk, Shea, Gray, Danniell and McGarton. In the "Journal of the Second Esopus War" in 1663, Captain Martin Krieger refers to an Irishman named Thomas so frequently that we must conclude he acted a very prominent part in the doings of the early settlers of that section.

On the headstones in an old churchyard at Kingston are inscribed several Irish names dated as far back as 1711, one, a family named O'Neill, having been quite numerous in that section.

The baptismal and marriage records of the old Dutch Church at Kingston contain many Irish names, among which may be mentioned Cane, Cavenagh, Connor, Conway, Carroll, Corkren, Carrick, Conneway, Dailey, Dooley, Doyle, Ennis, Farrel, Flanagan, Garvey, Griffin, Gilliland, Hogan, Holland, Haaley, Harrington, Haes, Kean, Kehill, McGuiness, McKennie, McDonnell, Moore, Magee, Makoun, McKeffie, McCabe, Makartarie, McKie, McGahan, McFall, Macpharlin, McKabe, McCarty, Mogan, Pouwer, Reilly, Sweeney, Welsch, and so on. Some of these run back to the first decade of the eighteenth century. The Carrolls were quite numerous, although the name is spelled, in most cases, "Karel" and "Karole." Flanagan is down as "Flanninger" and "Flanenger," McDonnell as "Mektonel," McMullen as "Mekmollen," McDonough as "Mekdonog," Connor as "Konners," and other Irish names are twisted into every conceivable shape and form.

In a list of Freeholders in the same county in 1728 are included such names as Moore, McNeill, McCollum, Ward, Humphrey, Shaw and a Dr. Golden.

In the muster rolls of the Ulster County Militia of the year 1737 are to be found such armed defenders of the colony as Ennis, Magennis, McLean, Waters, McGregory, Davis, Moore, McNeill, Gillespies, (spelled "Glaspy" and "Glisy"), Milligan, Coleman, Shaw, two Patrick Brodericks (both spelled "pathrick broodrick"), Mc-

Collum, Hayes, Humphrey, Ward, Flanigan, Patrick Gillespie, Lowry, Crane, McDonnell, Blake, Boyle, McGowan, McDonnell, McCloghrey, Sutton, Nealy, Cain, Neil, Read, McKey, McDowell and McMichael. There were several of the Humphreys, McNeills and Gillespies. Last, but perhaps not least, there was a forlorn soldier styled "pather-

ick mac peick," and if Patrick had any race pride at all I shouldn't wonder if he were not indignant enough to refuse to go out and do battle with the Indians after his name had been so badly slaughtered by the poor scribe of a corporal! Those were days, however, when "a rose by any other name did smell as sweet."



III.--THE IRISH BRIGADE.

Pioneers of Yates, Oswego and Washington Counties.

Among the earliest, some of them the first, settlers in Yates County, were Hugh Walsh, John Collins, Daniel Neven, John McAuley, William McDowell, William Wall, John Malley, Andrew Fleming, George McMurphy, Samuel McFarren, John O'Brien, John Reynolds, and Farleys, Fintons, Gleasons, Gilmores and McMasters.

In the neighboring county, Oswego, Irishmen are also found about the time of the Franco-English war. They were not alone among those settlers who followed the peaceful pursuits of tilling and building, but they were "the men behind the guns" who held the marauding Indian in check, and who, although fighting under the English flag, repelled the advances of the French through that territory. It does not follow from this that all of those soldiers bearing Irish names came over with the English regiments. Some of them seem to have been laborers and backwoodsmen, but who "for love of a fight," joined the forces of Sir William Johnson which had been operating against the French in that territory.

In the "Manuscripts of Sir William Johnson" is found an interesting item indicating that large numbers of Irishmen were active participants in the fighting along the Northwestern frontier of New York in the middle of the eighteenth century. In a report dated May 28, 1756, from the commander of an English regiment, he says that "*a great number of Irish papists* and transports who were enlisted from Pennsylvania and Maryland, deserted at Oswego and other garrisons, sheltered themselves among the Indians of the Six Nations, who passed them through their country on their way back to the provinces, whence they enlisted, and where they have acquaintances and confederates." That "there are great numbers of these Irish papists among the Delaware and Susquehanna Indians who have done a world of prejudice to English interests." Doubtless these Irishmen had been forcibly impressed into the English service, which they had every reason to despise, and grasped the opportunity of their close contiguity to the French and friendly Indians to make their escape in large bodies. This circumstance seems to have caused general alarm among the English officials, who, undoubtedly, depended much on these impressed Irish soldiers to fight their battles, as Eng-

land has on many occasions since in her campaigns of aggression and conquest.

The contests between the French and English at this time along the Canadian border were of the fiercest character. Both employed friendly Indian tribes, but the commanders on neither side could restrain the savages from ravaging the settlements of the white man. In these raids the peaceful settler suffered many hardships, and from the New York papers of the day, we glean some idea of the strife of the contending parties. The New York *Mercury* on June 14, 1756, gave an account of an Indian attack on settlements near Oswego, and among a number of artizans and farmers killed at that place were James Flanagan, Michael Murray, John Mitchell, John Jordan and James Grant, and among those who were made prisoners were William Drewry, Thomas Gladdon, James Dawson, Thomas Hogan, James Cavenagh, Samuel Miles and William Mullett.

Colonel James Barrett, who commanded the patriots at Concord, was a Captain of *Provincials* at Oswego.

Another interesting item pertaining to American history of this period, is one contained in the "Journals of the Marquis of Montcalm," commander of the French troops, relating to the Irish Brigade in the service of France. In August, 1756, the French laid siege to Chouaguen, on Lake Ontario, opposite Oswego. After a fierce engagement, the English surrendered with all their armaments and vessels of war, and among the prisoners were "two English regiments which were at the Battle of Fontenoy." It so happened that the regiment which compelled their surrender was one of those which comprised the Irish Brigade which administered such telling defeat to the "bloody Duke of Cumberland" on that historic battlefield. In the Canadian campaign, it was commanded by a Colonel Bearn (Byrne?), and, whether or not the same identical men made up its muster roll when at Oswego as had been at Fontenoy eleven years before, the capture of the two English regiments must indeed have been a source of grim satisfaction to those Franco-Irish soldiers. Bearn's regiment receives special mention in the "Journals of Montcalm" for its bravery in this engagement. "The leaders in the attack on the fort," to



W. Johnson

Governor of the Province of
New York. Born at Smith-
town, County Meath, 1715.
Died at Johnstown, N.
Y., July 11, 1774.

quote the words of a deserter from one of the English regiments, "were the French soldiers who were clothed in red, faced with green, which, I imagine, belong to the Irish Brigade." This description coincides exactly with the uniform worn by the Irish Brigade in the service of France at that time.

In the French-English War, Irish soldiers fought on both sides. They were at Lake George in 1757 under Sir William Johnson, and in the ranks of Montcalm's army there were many exiles of Erin scattered through the different regiments, besides the distinct corps commanded by Colonel Bearn.

Lossing relates that in the attack on the garrison at Long Point, on Lake George, by General Montcalm on March 16th, 1757, "the garrison made a vigorous defense. The garrison and fort were saved by the vigilance of Lieutenant (afterwards General) Stark, who, in the absence of Rogers, had command of the Rangers, a large portion of which were Irishmen. On the evening of the 16th he overheard some of them planning a celebration for St. Patrick's Day." He goes on to say that the Irish in the regular regiments usually became hilarious on the occasion of such celebrations, and Montcalm, anticipating that they would be *hors de combat*, planned his attack on the night preceding St. Patrick's Day, but that "Stark, with his sober rangers, gallantly defended and saved the fort."

Most assuredly the Irish must have been in great force in the army to warrant an assertion such as this on the part of this noted American historian. Among

the officers killed in the battle of Lake George were Captains Maginn, Farrell, and McGinnis. To the last named, who commanded the New Hampshire militia, is given the credit of turning the fortunes of the day. "At the head of 200 men he fell on the French and completely routed them."

Roger's Rock, on Lake George, was the scene of more than one stubborn fight with the Indians in the campaign of 1755. Major Rogers, from whom it took its name, is described by Lossing as "the son of an Irishman," who was an early settler in New Hampshire.

John Savage, who was born in Derry in 1707, settled in Salem, Washington County. He was captain of a company of volunteers in the French War. One of his descendants, Edward Savage, of Salem, was a member of the New York Legislature for 21 years, and his grandson, John Savage, of Utica, was Comptroller of the State from 1821 to 1823, and from the latter year to 1836 was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New York. Other settlers in Washington County were Harringtons, Powers, Griffiths and Nortons, who located at Granville; in White Creek, Kennedys, Lyons, Savages and Grays, and in the neighboring settlement of Dorset (now Vermont) we find Manly, Powell, Ward, Gill, Bradley and Clarke. All of these were farmers. In the same neighborhood lived Robert Cochran, one of the "rioters" with Ethan Allen in 1771. David Mooney received a grant of 2,000 acres of land in Washington County in 1765. It was known as the Mooney Patent.



IV.--CHURCH RECORDS IN EVIDENCE,

How Irish Names Became Changed.

In the collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society covering marriages solemnized in the Dutch Reformed Church of New York between the years 1639 and 1801, are records of marriages of numerous Irishmen and Irishwomen. The earliest seems to be the marriage of William Moore and Margaret Feen on October 8, 1685. George Walker, described as "from Ierlant," was married to a Miss Van Hoeck on September 23, 1692, and Miss Aeltje Jans took the more euphonious name of Flynn on July 7, 1693. Catherine Stridles demonstrated her æsthetic taste when, on April 18, 1701, she married Willem Doulen, who is described as "from Jerlandt." There are many curious entries such as this: "Denys Costula, j. m. v. Ierlandt, met Elisabeth Rendal, Wed. v. Barney Hamilton, v. Jerlandt, byde woonende alhier, December 1, 1730." Translating this it says that "Dennis Costello, who was born in Ireland, married Elizabeth Rendal, who was the widow of Barney Hamilton, born in Ireland, both residing here," and in reading it we wonder how Denny Costello's friends in Ireland could ever have recognized him by that twist in his name! Another example of a Dutch description of an Irish marriage is this: "John O'Bryan, j. m., en Margary Flingh, j. d., byde geboren in Jerlandt, en nu wonende in New-york." This interesting incident took place on June 7, 1761.

Between 1685 and 1700 there are hundreds of persons bearing Irish names recorded, and in many cases they are referred to as immigrants from Ireland. In a few cases, their particular place of birth, such as "Dubblin" and "Kork," are mentioned. Such names as O'Brien, O'Neill, Sullivan, McCarthy, McGinnis, Murphy, Flynn and Lynch, and others that are as distinctively Irish are mentioned frequently.

On the other hand, a great many names are spelled phonetically, which gives them an odd appearance at first glance, but which does not entirely rob them of their origin. The full list would make most interesting reading, and is one of the best illustrations that could be produced of the varying methods that were used in changing the original names of the early Irish settlers.

It must not be forgotten, however, that this list is that of only one church, and it is fair to assume that similar examples ap-

pear on the records of other old New York churches.

The majority of the Irishmen and Irish women who were married in this church bore the most distinctively Celtic names. Now, many of these people, particularly those who came here in the earliest years, could not express themselves in the English language. The language best known to them was their own, so that it is not strange to run across such a name, for instance, as "Kallye," in the early records, and it requires but little introspection into old Gaelic nomenclature at once to conclude that the person so recorded was properly named O'Ceallaigh, or, in its modern form, O'Kelly or Kelly. "Okeley" was also one of the peculiarities which this name took, and there is not much doubt but that, on account of its singular appearance, it came to be pronounced as if it were "Oakley." The names were written down phonetically, the consequence being that the ministers and their clerks, and other persons who kept such records, produced, in many cases, the most ludicrous and meaningless orthographical results.

It all depended on how the people themselves pronounced their names. The Irish language sounded strangely in the ears of the Dutchman, and, as some of the O'Kelly's and Kellys pronounced the name correctly, that is to say, as if it were spelled "Kallye," while others pronounced it in the modern method, they naturally wrote it down on the records either as "Kallye" or "Okeley!"

There are many instances like this to be found. The name of Brady is written down in the Dutch records in several different ways, as for example, "Jeams Braddys," who married Hannah Manning in New York on July 28, 1659, and Effie "Bready," who was united to "Patrik Queen" (Quinn), from Ireland, on March 19, 1770.

Martin "Coin" and Hannah "Boyl" were married on January 6, 1757. Such variations as "Boil" for Boyle, and "Coil" for Coyle are also found.

The name of Byrne is written "Burrin," as for instance, the marriage, on October 5, 1770, of David Narel, described as an Irishman, to Elizabeth "Burries," who came from Barbadoes.

The name of Ryan was the target for many peculiar changes. John F. "Rein" is recorded as having been married on April

13, 1716, but, if it would possibly be incorrect to say that he sprung from the old race of the O' Ryans, there can hardly be any doubt about the nationality of Richard "Rian," who married Rebecca Ervin on July 3, 1783, or of Elizabeth "Ryen," who changed her name to the less euphonious one of Ryd on November 13, 1760. Nor can there be any mistake about Hannah "Ryn," who was married to William Hayes on February 3, 1772, for the good reason that they are both recorded as natives of Ireland. And as if to round out this series of changes I find in "New York in the Revolution" the name of John "Ryne," who was a lieutenant in the Fourteenth Regiment of New York Militia.

Besides the common forms of Carty and Carthy, some of the McCarthy family are recorded as "Cartee" and "Charty," and we even find such a monstrosity as "Magkarty" taking the place of this old historic name!

Here is a sample of many entries which appear in these old records: "Zyn van ons in den Huwelyken Staat bevestigt, Patrick Fox en Magdalena Sheredewyn beide van Nieuw York." Translating this, it reads: "Invested by us in the holy state of matrimony Patrick Fox and Magdalena Sheredewyn, both of New York." It doesn't need much of a stretch of the imagination to conclude that the lady's name was Sheridan.

The name of Daly is also one which had to stand the brunt of many changes. "Margrite Dally," from Ireland, married "Patrik Follon," also described as from Ireland, on December 22, 1774. In other entries the name is given as "Dayly," "Daeley" and "Dailee." Some of the Carrolls are recorded as "Corol," "Carell" and "Carrel. There are two revolutionary soldiers, who sprung, no doubt, from the O'Learys, down as "Laere" and "Lary." The former was in the Third Battalion of the Tryon County Militia, and the latter in Brinckerhoff's regiment of State troops.

Other methods by which the old Irish names became disguised were: McManness and McMoness for McManus, McMulland for McMullen, MacKnult for McNulty, and so on, and while these cannot be said to be violent departures from the originals, yet, when the prefix was subsequently dropped from the substituted name, it will at once be seen what a complete change resulted. Many of the McLoughlins are down as "McClocklin" and "Maglaghlin," McGee is written down "Megee" and "Magey," McAfee as "Mekafee," McGill as "Mekill," and McNeill as MaKneel." The name of O'Neill is also given as "Okneel."

Jeremiah "Shansee's" ancestors would hardly recognize him in that guise, although, for other reasons, they would be quite proud of him, for Jerry was a brave soldier who served in Van Rensselaer's regiment of New York State troops, in the Revolutionary War. Sergeant Michael "Opherl" of Cantine's regiment of State troops would also have a hard time proving his Irish ancestry if it depended alone on the appearance of his name. There were several of this family serving in the New York Line during the War of the Revolution, although the names of the others were spelled either O'Ferril or O'Ferrell.

The name of "Moorey," doubtless, was formed by the addition of the final "y" to Moore, while, on the other hand, the "y" was dropped from Mooney, thus making it "Moone." The name of "Murfee" appears very frequently in the old Colonial records, as well as "Huyse" and "Hues," meant for Hughes; "Kayse" for Casey, "Mak Guire" and "Gwire" for McGuire, "MkMihon" for McMahon, "Makre" for McCrea, and "Dwir" for Dwyer. Patrick Ma Har was a soldier who served in the "Corps of Invalids." Ensign "Solivan" was in the Second Regiment from the Schenectady District, and Peter "Fitchpatrick" served in Colonel Fisher's regiment of the New York State troops. How simple it must have been for Peter's descendants to drop the "patrick" from the name and call themselves "Fitch."

The name of O'Brien also had its troubles in these changeful days. John "Brine," a mariner, was married to Elizabeth Van Clyff in the Dutch Reformed Church in New York on August 4, 1696, and in these records there are also entries about which one is apt to be suspicious, such as "Bryn" and "Bryen," but it is possible these may have been of the Dutch family of Bruyn, which was quite common in New York. In "New York in the Revolution" there are two soldiers named "O'Briant" recorded. The dropping of the historic prefix would have made the change complete, and if some of the "Briants," descendants of these revolutionary soldiers, were to be told they came from a family that can trace its Irish ancestry in a direct line back for more than a thousand years they would probably be astonished! There were many O'Briens in the War of the Revolution whose names are spelled in several different ways, but retaining the original sound.

The Irish residents of New York whose marriages are recorded in the Dutch Reformed Church were, doubtless, in every case of the Roman Catholic faith, but, as it was necessary to comply with the established law, and also so that their offspring may be

legitimate, they could be bound in wedlock only by a recognized Minister of the Gospel. There being no Roman Catholic Church in New York for many years during the period mentioned, the ceremony had to be performed in the Dutch Reformed or Protestant Church. Many of them were refugees from Ireland on account of the religious persecutions. Like the people of Ireland in all ages, they were devoted to their religion, and while, no doubt, they eschewed for a while association with the established churches, yet, as time went on, they and their children were gradually drawn into religious intercourse with the other sects, until eventually they became regular communicants of those churches. The variations which from time to time were wrought in their names brought them further and further away from what they had been; in their new surroundings, both social and religious, they themselves changed, so that their children, who in many cases married into their neighboring Dutch and French families, became as wholly un-Irish in manner and sentiment as if they had sprung from an entirely different race. That fact, however, does not admit of their being now included in the category "Anglo-Saxon."

I am not discoursing on the subject of religion, nor do I intend to introduce it, but, I am compelled to say, that the fact that such great and diversified alterations were effected in the names of the early Irish settlers in the colonies, and the further fact that so many of those settlers and their children abandoned the ancient faith with which the Celtic race has been identified for centuries, brought about this unfortunate result, that they became completely changed during the passing of the years, so that to-day a large section of the American people are prone to believe that the Irish did not figure to any extent in the early struggles of their adopted country!

In another work entitled "Names of Persons for whom Marriage Licenses were issued by the Secretary of the Province of New York, previous to 1784," compiled by Gideon J. Tucker (when Secretary of State), and taken from the early records of the office of the Secretary of State at Albany, we find ample corroboration of the church

records. Page after page of this book looks more like some record of the Province of Munster than of the Province of New York. It is a quarto volume printed in small type in double columns, and there are eleven pages wholly devoted to persons whose names commence with "Mac" and three to the "O's." Like some of the colonial records to which I have already referred, it is one of those rare and valuable works that are the depositories of the evidence of the part played by the Irish race in the laying of the foundations of this State. Perusal of them by some of our present-day orators of the dinner-table, who so amusingly glorify the "Anglo-Saxon" as the founder of the American race, would have a chastening influence on their ignorance of early American history, and would reopen the long vista of the years, at the very beginning of which they would see the Teuton, the Celt, and the Gaul working side by side solidifying the fulcrum of the structure on which this great Nation rests.

Nearly every name common to Ireland is here represented. There are 18 O'Connors and Connors, 84 Moores, 24 Collinss, 24 McDonnells, 22 Walshs, 21 Murphys, 16 Kellys, 17 Ryans, 14 O'Briens, 15 Kennedys, 14 McNeills, 20 Suttons, 11 Sullivans, and so many McCarthy's, Dalys, Reillys, O'Neillls, Flanagans, Doyles, Doughertys and such names, that one almost gets tired reading them.

Captain George Croghan, the celebrated Indian Agent of the Province, was an Irishman. So was the first white settler in Saratoga County, Michael McDonald.

Sir William Johnson employed many of his countrymen. His lawyer's name was Kelly; his physician, Daly; his secretary, Lafferty, and the superintendent of his properties was named Flood. A schoolmaster named Wall, whom he established at Johnstown, came from Johnson's native county of Meath, and several of his scholars bore the most distinctively Irish names. Others in his employ bore such names as Byrne, McCarthy, Cotter, Doran, McDonald, Connor, and so on. Some of them became large landowners. Michael Byrne, for instance, owned 18,000 acres in Tryon County in 1764.

V.--IRISH MERCHANTS AND LANDOWNERS.

Early Celebrations of St. Patrick's Day--Irish Officers in the New York Regiments in the Revolution.

Among the largest landowners on the banks of Lake Champlain were Connollys and McCauleys, and in that portion of the province, now Vermont, there were settlers a score of years before the Revolution named Burke, Barrett, Kennedy, McCoy, Hogan, Dunn, Cummins, Larkin, McConnell, Moore, Garvey, Goff, Carey, McCarra, Duane, and others too numerous to mention, but whose names clearly indicate their Irish origin. The Duane family alone, who came from the County of Galway, owned 63,000 acres of land in that section.

The first linen manufactories in New York were established by Irishmen. "As early as 1700 all of the linen used by the inhabitants came from Ireland," says Lossing, and in a report from Governor Tryon, dated June 11, 1774, he states that "eleven-twelfths of the inhabitants of the province are clothed in linen imported from Ireland," and that "there is every year a great quantity of flaxseed, lumber and iron sent to Ireland in ships belonging to that Kingdom, and which came out annually with passengers and servants." Among the prominent linen merchants of New York I find Hugh Wallace and James McBride, both natives of Ireland, who became possessed of much wealth. McBride was a President of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

In his "History of Chataqua County," Young states that "Colonel James McMahon and Edward McHenry may with propriety be styled the pioneers of that county, as they were the first white men who purchased and settled with the intention of taking up a permanent residence there." McMahon settled near where the village of Westfield now stands, and the first dwelling of the white man was erected there by McHenry. Colonel McMahon commanded a regiment in the War of 1812. General John McMahon, brother of James, was also an early and conspicuous settler in Chataqua, and among his countrymen are mentioned Cosgroves, Kennedys, Macks, Dunns and Kanes. One of the most noted pioneers of Chataqua County was William Prendergast, a native of Kilkenny, who settled first in Dutchess County in 1746, and after some years located on the west shore of Chataqua Lake. He brought up an Irish family, seven sons and six daughters. Two of his sons, Martin and Mathew, became Judges of Niagara County; another, James, founded the City

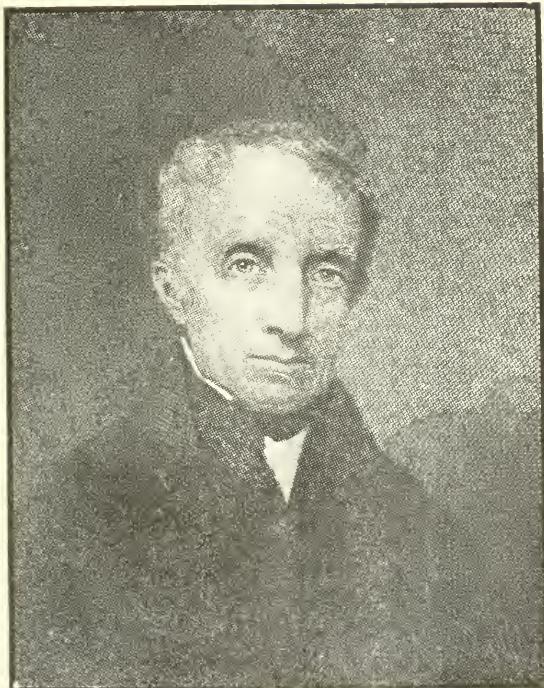
of Jamestown; another became a physician, and another, William, commanded a regiment which fought in the War of 1812. Judge Matthew Prendergast's son was a surgeon in the same war and was a famous physician in Erie County.

John McCurdy, who emigrated from Armagh in 1745, was a merchant in the City of New York in 1747, from where he removed to Connecticut a few years later. The remarkable record of this Irish exile may well excite admiration and wonder. A man of exhaustless enterprise, patriot, philanthropist and patrician, his name has gone down in history as one worthy of a place among the foremost Americans of his day. He became one of the wealthiest merchants and shipowners in New England, and was one of the first in his adopted State to throw in his lot with the patriots of the Revolution.

From the old New York newspapers, in which are recounted the annual meetings of Irishmen on the 17th of March, we get an idea of the Irish population of the city. In the *Mercury* of March 15, 1762, is found an announcement of a forthcoming St. Patrick's Day celebration by the Irish residents. The *Gazette* of March 20, 1766, and the *Mercury* of March 24, contain elaborate reports of a celebration on the previous 17th of March, at which some of the toasts were: "May the enemies of America be branded with infamy and disdain;" "Success to the Sons of Liberty;" "Success to American manufactures;" "The day, and prosperity to Ireland," and several other toasts along those lines. The toasts wound up with one in this peculiar vein and phraseology: "May the enemies of Ireland never eat the bread or drink the whiskey of it, but be tormented with itching without the benefit of scratching."

The originator of the great canal system of our State was Christopher Colles, an Irishman, who came to New York in 1772, and although his plans were rejected, yet it is on record that they were afterwards used when the great project was successfully carried out.

The *Gazette* of March 14, 1768, announced a coming celebration by the "Order of St. Patrick." The *Journal* of March 30, 1769, contains an account of a dinner given by a society known as the "Friendly Brothers of St. Patrick." Between 1775 and 1783 there



CHRISTOPHER COLLES.

The First Projector of Inland Navigation in the United States.

Born in Ireland, 1738. Died in New York, 1816.

is nothing on record indicating that St. Patrick's Day was observed in New York, but after the latter year the celebrations are seen to have continued year after year, but under a very different order of things. The first President of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick was Daniel McCormick, who came from Ireland before the Revolution and who amassed a large fortune as a merchant in New York.

The *Gazette* of March 16, 1775, contained an announcement that "to-morrow, being the anniversary of St. Patrick, tutelar Saint of Ireland, will be observed with the usual respect and attention by his generous sons and their descendants." In the same paper of March 22, 1779, appears a report of a parade on the previous St. Patrick's Day, by the "Volunteers of Ireland," under Lord Rawdon. This body was in the English service, however. It is not a rare thing to find Irishmen in the English army, but there is a reason for it, and this regiment, no doubt, although called "Volunteers," was recruited in Ireland among the unfortunates who were driven to desperation and who were glad of any opportunity of obtaining the wherewithal to keep them from nakedness and starvation.

It is also probable that many of these so-called "Volunteers" were impressed into the service by the well-known methods in vogue in Ireland for generations past, for it is on record that many of the misnamed "Volunteers of Ireland" deserted from the British ranks and joined the American patriots.

These desertions were so very frequent that on July 1, 1780, when the "Volunteers of Ireland" were in camp at Camden, N. J., Lord Rawdon, by direction of Cornwallis, wrote to a Major Rugely in this wise: "So many deserters from this army have passed with impunity through the districts which are under your direction that I must necessarily suspect the inhabitants to have connived at if not facilitated their escape. I will give the inhabitants ten guineas for the head of any deserter belonging to the Volunteers of Ireland, and five guineas only if they bring him in alive." The whole of this order will be found in Hartley's "Life of General Marion."

Among the Irish officers in the ranks of the New York patriots in the Revolution may be mentioned Colonel James McCleary, who is referred to in Hoosick's "Life of De Witt Clinton" as "one of the bravest officers America can boast of." General Richard Montgomery, one of the four Brigadiers appointed by the first Congress, and the first of the four to die in the cause of

our glorious country; Gen. Edward Hand, who commanded the Pennsylvania Line, distinguished himself in New York. So did Colonel Robert Cochran, who commanded a detachment of militia at Fort Edward at the time of Burgoyne's surrender. Captain Robert McKean, the defender of Cherry Valley. The story of his brave defense of Curriytown on July 9, 1781, against the Indians and loyalists reads like a chapter from the career of the "Spartan Band."

The commanders of the forlorn hope in the memorable attack on the British works at Stony Point on July 17, 1779, were Major Murfey and Lieutenant Gibbons, Lieutenant-Colonel Percival Butler was Morgan's second in command at the battle of Saratoga, and this list of Irish soldiers would certainly be incomplete without some mention of Timothy Murphy, of Schoharie, who covered himself with glory at Bemis Heights. Murphy belonged to Morgan's celebrated Rifle Corps, and proved himself one of the most fearless and intrepid soldiers of that band of heroes.

In the "Narrative of the Captivity of Ethan Allen," the redoubtable hero of Ticonderoga pays tribute to the Irish soldiers who fought under him in the Canadian campaign of 1775, and mentions some thrilling incidents where his life was saved by the timely interference of Irishmen.

Many of the officers of the New York regiments bore Irish names, and the muster rolls of the various regiments, notably those of Colonels Malcom, Willett and the Third Regiment of the Line, show large numbers of Irishmen.

But the list seems almost interminable. I could go on at much greater length and dwell upon Irishmen and their descendants who added to the lustre of the Empire State, but I do not wish to trespass upon your patience.

Kept in subjection in his native country under the centuried goad of an alien government, the Irishman has proved beyond peradventure of a doubt his unqualified success in other lands. Give him a fair field with the air of freedom filling his lungs, and you may be sure that he will give a good account of himself. What I have stated here to-day is a series of historical facts gathered from the most unimpeachable authorities after many months of research, without resorting to any flowers of rhetoric in setting these facts forth.

If I have interested the New York State Historical Association in the lives and times of some of these forgotten Irishmen, then I shall be assured that my labors have not been in vain.

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